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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A telecommunications network having a plurality of mesh nodes, where each mesh node includes one or more switches and at least one of the mesh nodes includes a plurality of switches, each mesh node having a connection to each other mesh node and each mesh node having associated with it a respective plurality of local nodes, each switch of each mesh node being connected to all of the respective associated plurality of local nodes. The network may be upgraded by adding a further switch to a mesh node and connecting all the respective local nodes to that switch and sharing the connections between the switches of the mesh node. A suitable network routing algorithm controls the routing in the network. --